

and senseless war. He must be immediately freed and allowed to continue his work.

Sincerely,

Ben Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, Roger Wicker, Sheldon Whitehouse, U.S. Senators.

Steve Cohen, Gerald Connolly, Brian Fitzpatrick, Richard Hudson, Marcy Kaptur, Adam Kinzinger, Peter Meijer, Gwen Moore, Katie Porter, Abigail Spanberger, Joe Wilson, John Curtis, Ruben Gallego, Sheila Jackson Lee, Bill Keating, Tom Malinowski, Mike Levin, Burgess Owens, Maria Elvira Salazar, Marc Veasey, Members of Congress.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, this week, our Nation observes National Police Week, a time when we pay tribute to our brave law enforcement officers and honor those who died in the line of duty.

Over the course of this week, Americans will come together to pay tribute to the 619 officers who gave their lives in the line of duty last year. Among them, six brave officers from Kansas will be memorialized on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC.

Thousands travel to our Nation's Capital to honor those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice during this ceremony, and back home, Kansans will gather to honor the men and women who put on a uniform each day to protect the communities we call home.

One officer Kansans will gather to pay tribute to next week is Captain Clay Germany of the Wichita Police Department. Captain Germany was a U.S. Navy veteran and started his law enforcement career serving with the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office and the Midwest City Police Department. He then dedicated 27 years to serving with the Wichita Police Department and, throughout his time, served as police officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain.

Captain Germany earned a reputation for being a trusted leader and mentor within the community and in the department, always willing to lend a helping hand. On behalf of Kansas, I want to express my gratitude for his service. Captain Germany's dedication helped make Wichita a better and safer community.

I also want to recognize Wichita Police Department Officer Kyle Mellard, who was shot when responding to a welfare check in June of last year. After fighting for his life, Officer Mellard is able to walk again, a recovery that his fellow officers call a miracle. Despite his severe injuries, when talking about his recovery, Officer Mellard made his goal clear: to get back to work as an officer as soon as possible.

All too often, we forget about the many important roles that our police officers have within our communities. This extends beyond relationships between police officers and individual residents. It is about the relationships

between law enforcement and key institutions in our communities, such as churches, hospitals, schools, and businesses.

During Police Week, we honor those we have lost, but we also remember the families they left behind. May God comfort them in their time of grief and be a source of strength for them.

May God bless our law enforcement officers and protect them from harm as they faithfully perform their duties each and every day.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, every single day, law enforcement officers across the Nation put on a badge and leave for work to protect and serve our families and communities, not knowing if they will return to their own. Whether it be by ensuring safety on our roadways or responding to life-or-death crises, these brave men and women consistently honor their solemn oath in safeguarding the people of this blessed Nation.

As we commemorate 2022 National Law Enforcement Week, we offer special honors for the 619 officers our Nation lost last year in the line of duty, sadly including officers from Mississippi. This week is dedicated to remembering their ultimate sacrifice, which is dearly felt by loved ones, friends, and entire communities.

Law enforcement officers have remained steadfast in their commitment to serve, even when faced with harsh, unfair criticism, scrutiny, and limited resources. Their ability to carry out their already stressful duties in such a challenging and sometimes hostile environment is remarkable.

I want to make it known to all the law enforcement officers across the State of Mississippi and around the country that I greatly admire you for your rock solid tenacity and loyalty throughout such challenges. I will continue to work to ensure you have what you need to do your job.

These officers, who are truly hometown heroes, are strongholds in our communities, and the loss of any officer is deeply felt by all. This Police Week, we honor and mourn five heroes from Mississippi, officers who died in the line of duty in 2021.

Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol Trooper John Martin Harris, 44, died on May 28, 2021, after a vehicle struck him during a traffic stop. Harris' childhood dream was to be a policeman and serve his community. Having earned two Purple Hearts throughout his 24-year law enforcement career is a testament to his dedication, bravery, and selflessness. He leaves behind his wife and his two children.

Jefferson Davis County Deputy Sheriff Thomas Patrick "Pat" Barnes, 50, lost his life on April 10, 2021, after he sustained injuries in a single vehicle car crash while responding to a call for assistance from another agency. Barnes' passion for law enforcement

began while working in security. He joined and graduated from the police academy in 2017 and began his career with Jefferson Davis County Sheriff's department shortly thereafter. He leaves behind his wife, four children, and his grandchildren.

Hancock County Lieutenant Michael Anthony Boutte, Sr., was tragically shot and killed after responding to an emergency situation involving a suicidal man who turned his weapon onto arriving deputies. He died on February 1, 2021, at the age of 57. Before his law enforcement career, Boutte served in the U.S. Air Force, where he was deployed during Operation Desert Storm. Boutte is survived by his wife, his child, his step-children, and his grandchildren.

Deputy Sheriff Bobby Daffin of George County Sheriff's Office passed away August 12, 2021, following a battle with COVID-19. He was 37 years old. Daffin served his community for 14 years and had recently served as a narcotics agent for the Southeast Mississippi Narcotics Task Force. He leaves behind a young daughter.

Hinds County Sheriff Lee D. Vance, 63, lost his life from cardiorespiratory failure as a result of COVID-19 on August 3, 2021. Vance, who has always had a love for the city of Jackson, served as Jackson police chief from 2014–2017 and was later elected Hinds County Sheriff in 2019. He leaves behind four daughters, a son, and numerous grandchildren.

We also honor the lives of many officers, whose stories of sacrifice had been lost to history until now.

In addition to these recent losses, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial will include the name of Deputy Town Marshal Walker Cobb of Saucier, MS. At the age of 41, Cobb was fatally shot on December 25, 1903, while attempting to arrest an impaired suspect for disorderly conduct. More than a century later, his loss and sacrifice will be remembered.

Throughout our Nation's history, our men and women in blue have often risked personal peril to safeguard their fellow citizens, and we owe them our staunch support. As we mark National Police Week, let us acknowledge our debt to these fallen officers and recommit ourselves to support them and their families, especially when tragedy strikes.

I will continue to be an advocate for law enforcement professionals and do all I can to honor the legacy of those lost in the line of duty.

To the families and loved ones of our fallen Mississippi law enforcement officers, I know you have faced enormous loss. It is said, "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." Please know that it is my prayer that the Lord stays near you during your time of grief. God bless you, and God bless our men and women in blue.